

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN RESOURCES. DIVISION OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES**

PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT

This agreement is made and entered into by the Department of Juvenile Justice (hereinafter referred to as "DJJ"), the Department of Human Resources (hereinafter referred to as "DHR").

PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT

The purpose of this agreement is to promote increased cooperation, coordination, and integration at the administrative and service delivery levels for the benefit of children and families within the purview of DJJ and DHR's Division of Family and Children Services (hereafter referred to as DHR/DFCS.) It seeks to enhance the quality of services for troubled children in Georgia through improved coordination of resources between DJJ and DHR/DFCS. A framework is provided for the parties to enhance the level of collaboration and improve the quality of services delivered to youth and families.

BACKGROUND OF NEED FOR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

The parties to this agreement accept the following justifications of need for creation of this interagency cooperative agreement:

1. Research clearly confirms that children who are maltreated by their parents or caretakers suffer the immediate consequences of abuse and neglect. Additionally, these youth have a heightened risk of involvement in serious delinquent and other adolescent problem behaviors including substance abuse, teen pregnancy, low academic achievement and mental health problems.
2. Georgia's juvenile court system is charged with serving the best interests of the children and families appearing before the court while assuring due process and public safety.
3. The parties have authority and/or mandates to provide services to the children or youth of Georgia and agree that clear communication is necessary to assist them in performing these services effectively and efficiently.
4. Both parties agree to operate under the principle that commitment of a youth to DJJ or placement of custody to DHR/DFCS does not relieve either party of ongoing responsibilities for a youth.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT